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The custom, of which some account is given in the following article, is still retained in some parts of Wales, where the return of All Saints' Eve continues to be marked by many rustic festivities. But much of the pristine humour of this ancient festival is undoubtedly lost: and in many places all vestiges of the ceremonial have vanished. Some account of the custom of lighting fires (*coelcerthi*) on November eve has already appeared in the CAMBRO-BRITON*.

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ALL-SAINTS' EVE.

There is a custom peculiar to Wales,—and peculiar, I believe, to Wales alone,—the origin of which I should imagine to be of some antiquity. I allude to the observance of the eve of All-Saints as a festival and holiday. The institution of the custom is readily accounted for. In the earlier and darker, and more barbarous ages, certain days were set apart for the performance of particular mythological ceremonies, and on “All-Saints’ Eve” thanksgivings were offered up to the Deity for the fruits of harvest. The predilection, the Welsh have ever retained for many of the rude habits of their forefathers, has preserved, amongst other customs, the festivities of All-Saints’ Eve, and the evening of this day is spent in mirth and gladness. Bonfires are kindled, labour is suspended, the villagers assemble, and the young and active dance to the music of the harp, or pass their time in the exercise of athletic and rustic games. I well remember with what eager joy I was wont, during my boyish days, to hail the approach of this festival: I always spent it at “the Rector’s;” and, although some years have elapsed since that joyous period, the recollection of it is yet vivid in my memory, and will never be forgotten. There is a pleasure in permitting the imagination to dwell thus on the scenes of early life; particularly if we have, by the chances of fate, been separated from them, and from all whom time and memory have endeared to us. It is an impulse, with which Nature inspires us, and in an obedience to which the mind is agreeably and not unworthily employed. My absence from Wales has not afforded me an opportunity of witnessing whether the ceremonies of All-Saints’ Eve are observed with all their pristine celebrity; but, as far as report goes, I am given to understand that they are. And we can almost hope that luxury and refinement will never penetrate into the mountain wilds of Cambria, to deprive the honest inhabitants of their innocent and favourite enjoyments.

T. R.

* No. 5, p. 172. See also Cambrian Register, vol. i. p. 307.